

CITYVIEW

City of Hamilton Planning and Development Department

1996

DOWNTOWN - PERSPECTIVES ON GROWTH

Downtown Next Exit



Hamilton's downtown central retail and commercial core is unique; a mix of old and new. The "Old Core" is Gore Park. The "New Core" is the Jackson Square, Eaton Centre, Convention Centre area. The future of downtown Hamilton will be about both Old and New. Downtown today, and in the future, is rooted in its past.

The First 100 Years ...

Hamilton's downtown was centred around Gore Park and Market Square; downtown grew outward from this area. Stores and businesses grew along King Street, both east and west, and along James Street, both north and south. Downtown was the commercial heart of the City for shopping, commerce, banking, and industry. Going downtown was an event - a special purpose trip. Downtown was the shopping heart of the City - the broadest range of retail goods concentrated in the Market Square/Gore Park areas.

A Renewed Downtown ...

Things started to change after World War II. The suburban movement started in Hamilton; new housing was built in the east and west ends of the City and on the Mountain. More people bought cars; moving to the suburbs was made easier because the suburbs became more accessible.

Today downtown is no longer the retail heart of the City; the growth of the suburbs has introduced the shopping mall. The malls offer similar choices as downtown stores. Offices, and the services provided by the people who work in them, are the largest commercial function downtown. The growth of services (financial institutions, insurance, real estate, and government) has changed the face of downtown. Office buildings dominate the New Core.

Yet, downtown also offers Hamiltonians some unique opportunities: the Art Gallery, Hamilton Place, Copps Coliseum, the Farmer's Market. Downtown's role in the City is evolving: it is no longer what it was in the first 100 years.

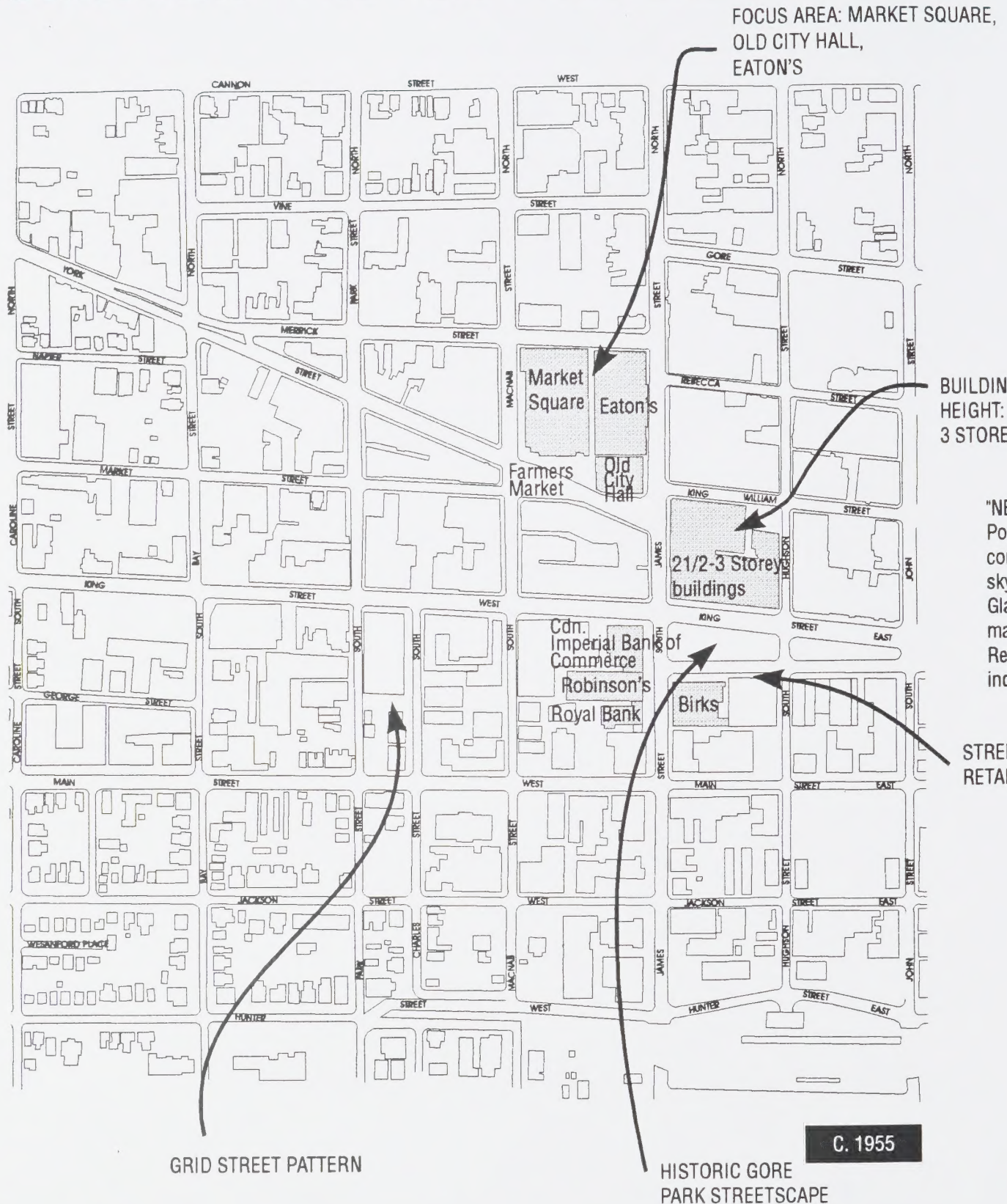
Shaping the Future:

James Street divides the Old and New Cores. This creates unique challenges for downtown and for the City. It also creates opportunities for enhancing the unique characteristics of Hamilton's downtown. The maps on the next two pages show the changes to downtown and highlight some of the issues.



HAMILTON'S PLAN FOR TOMORROW

DOWNTOWN - THE FIRST HUNDRED YEARS



DOWNTOWN - THE CONTEMPORARY CITY



HAMILTON'S PLAN FOR TOMORROW

The Challenges of the Old and New Core Together

Downtown Hamilton today is a mix of the Old Core and the New Core. Downtown will grow and Hamilton will face choices about its growth. The choices will be about the roles of the Old Core and New Core; preservation of the Old Core and growth of the New Core; and finding a balance between the two "Cores". A vision of Hamilton must answer the following questions:



What is the role of the "Old Core" in downtown? Should it continue as the retail area? How should the area around Gore Park be preserved?



Where should the "New Core" grow - north of York Boulevard, west of Bay Street, south of Main Street? Should the "New Core" be contained within its existing area?



How should the Old and New Cores work together? What should be done to enhance both areas while retaining the distinct character of each area?

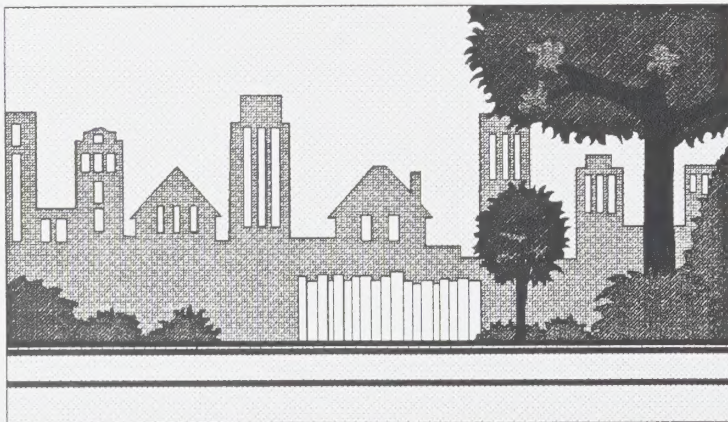


What should downtown's future be in the City:

- the commercial heart?
- retail?
- the one of a kind facilities?

DOWNTOWN ISSUES ...

Hamilton's Downtown is more than the central retail commercial core - it includes the neighbourhoods surrounding the core. These six neighbourhoods (Durand, Corktown, Beasley, Central, North End West, and North End East) are an integral part of downtown. Yet, the neighbourhood issues are distinct from those facing the commercial core. More on the downtown neighbourhoods can be found in the second downtown discussion brochure on Downtown Neighbourhoods.



For further information on this brochure, please contact Mary Lou Tanner at (905) 546-4148.



CITYVIEW

CityView Hamilton's Plan for Tomorrow is your opportunity to present your ideas and thoughts on the future of Hamilton.

Your ideas will ultimately form the basis of a new Official Plan for the City of Hamilton.

Staff of Hamilton's Planning and Development Department are available to answer your questions on any facet of CityView.

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